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Can post office become a mini-court house?

The following is a letter Councilman Abe Calzola has written to the following: Congressman Joseph McDade; Senator Robert Mellow; State Representatives, Joseph Wargo and Frank Serafini; and County Commissioners, Charles Luger, Robert Pettinato and Chester Lasota.

Sir:

I am writing this letter to ask your help in a very important matter, the acquisition of the post office building in the city of Carbondale. The postal department has been notified that the city of Carbondale is not interested in the building. This is not totally true. Some of us are interested in obtaining title to this structure, however, finances and the debt of the city prevent us from formally applying for its purchase.

I feel that speaking to the proper authorities from county to federal government, there has to be an avenue open for the city and county to purchase this building. There are many possibilities for this building, of which the following are a few. Using it as an upper valley courthouse of mini courthouse, relieving the workload of the main courthouse in hearing small cases in which District Magistrates could hold court.

Also, the many licensing agencies could also function out of this building. It has been published that county judicial system wishes to centralize some of its magistrates into the Scranton county courthouse. This would add an even greater burden on travel, finance and parking for upper valley citizens.

Also, I hope you realize there is not one of our representatives in county or state government that has an office in this area. The people are under the impression that no one cares about us. Frankly, I feel the same way. When we talk politically, economically or recreationally, it's all located down valley and away from Carbondale and the communities that comprise the upper valley.

If other areas can get financial backing for such things as the Lackawanna train station, Montage, Nay Aug Park, museums, Steam Town, etc., then I would like to know why we here in Carbondale have to be classified as a lesser important citizen and be continually by-passed.

I realize that that the Postal Service is not a cabinet appointment any longer and they, "the post office" continually reminds the people of the USA that no taxpaver's monies are currently being used, however, they were used to construct this post office and many more around the country. I can't remember any publication by the news media where the current postal department bought any of these buildings back from the taxpayers nor ever paid rent or taxes to this city.

This building belongs to the taxpayers in this area and the decision of what to do with it belongs to us. I would appreciate anything you can do to help us here in Carbondale obtain title to this building so that we can use it functionally and keep it looking forever as it is, the most beautiful building in Carbondale.

Awaiting you reply, I remain

Albert "Abe" Calzola
Councilman, City of Carbondale